TAPE NO. 26

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NARRATOR C.J. Anderson

INTERVIEWER Phyllis Lotz

PLACE Historical Museum
Santa Ynez

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Interview with C. James Anderson
Date of Interview: 26 Feb. 1987
Interviewer: Phyllis Lotz
Transcriber: Phyllis Lotz
Begin Tape 1, Side 1

PL: Introduction

How did your father, William Anderson happen to come to the Santa Ynez Valley?

Mr. A: He first came to Canada but when and where he arrived I do not know. But he got to Hamilton, Ontario, where his brother Charles was living and was a wheel wright and blacksmith. My Dad stayed there for some time before he came to California. Another brother, Jim, had a blacksmith shop in the Santa Ynez Valley and I suppose he came because of that. Dad must have had some arrangement with his brother Jim, because Jim sold out the shop to Dad. The shop was right here on Madera and Faraday Streets, Santa Ynez. They did work together for some time but Jim had wanderlust and had to move on. He went to Arizona, Douglas, looking for gold. He was captured by Pancho Villa who Jim said was a great person. Villa had Jim work with his army as a blacksmith, to shod horses and all, during the revolution. I heard all this as a small child. My Dad took over the shop and was married afterwards. He married Kathleen Donovan. The shop was all pulled down after the water district was changed. I worked on pulling it down. My Mother and Jim Smith got permission to take the front doors off the blacksmith shop and a

shed was made out if them. Jim carried the shed on a wagon for the Fiesta Parades in Santa Barbara. Jim Smith apprenticed with my Dad and became a blacksmith in Goleta.

PL: Tell me about your Mother?

Mr. A: Our Mother came here actually because of her brothers John, Tom and Con. She came to live with John in the old ranch house on Hwy. 154. They were from Skibreen, Ireland. She was a country girl and it was her turn to come to the United States because she had brothers here. She came to be their house keeper and she chose to come to Santa Ynez. She got to know the Pat Murphy family very well as the children were about the same age. I don't know how the romance started with Bill Anderson but he was a pretty handsome guy. I remember my Dad wearing all his medals, cycling medals. I have won a lot of medals myself in track, baseball, but I have never worn them as my Dad used to do. I lost my medals, they were stolen. Dad's medals were of gold. He was a bicyclist, a champion of Mirshire County, right out of Aberdeen, Scotland.

PL: What year were your parents married?

MR: A: I was born in 1903 so they must have been married in 1900 or 01. There were two boys, myself and John. John is five years younger than I. My dad had a leaning towards mechanics. He always believed there would be a mechanically run world. If he were a young man today he

would be a flyer because everything he talked about was mechanics. It did not catch with me because sports was my love.

I did not listen and I should have been more attentive to my Dad. He was a mechanical genius. He did encourage me to into sports. After school, as I was growing up I did help in the shop; bolt off tires, strike on the big welding. I had to learn to make the hits on the hammer just as level as could be to get the proper strike on the weld. I can still remember those times and if the hot slag coming off and hitting me, it would burn, but I did not stop, you still hit! On Saturdays we always had a good crushing, rolled barley. We rolled the barley. Dad had this big barley crusher and ran it with a steam engine, powered by wood. Every Saturday a line of horses and wagons, four horse teams would be waiting to get in. The grain was grown in the Valley. There were the Raymonds, Charlie Gardner, the Murphys, and I learned to sew sacks too. Most of the time we fed the barley into the hopper and it was sacked and the grain then went back with the farmer. It was a real big production. My brother, Jack, was a hell raiser once in a while. I remember him hitting my Uncle Jim with a bunch of barley and my uncle was very upset as he had a bald head.

PL: Where did you start school?

Mr. A. I went to school

and did not like it so I did not go for a whole year. When I was 6, I don't remember what bothered me, and when I got to high school I was younger than most. I don't understand that part. Ninth Ninth grade was at high school and Mrs. (Muriel) Edwards was the principal, she taught 7 and 8th grades. I graduated from high school at 17. I did not know what college meant. We had basket ball and base ball in high school. I grew to be quite tall. I had a sick spell and grew six inches during that time. I became a center then. The professor made me into a center. He also pitched in during that time. Our coach was Professor Pope, and then Mr. Westcott, and very good principal. I admired that little fellow. He was short, but he was pugnacious when it came to doing things right. He made us do well and no fooling around. He taught algebra, science, geography, and he was coach for the sports after school. The only coach we had and he got us out to play having him with us and we were sort of rough on him too. We won the county championship here. At that time there were no difference, like leagues, between schools and we played much larger schools. Now they have a different league for each but we used to play Santa Barbara High as an equal. We had 90 students in Santa Ynez High. On the basket ball team we had John Donahue, Nels Nelson, Henry Minetti, Luck Buchardi, and myself as the team, with Emmett Edwards as substitute. He could not play

much basket ball but we took him along just in case. Luck, Nels, and Henry are gone and John is in Idaho, I think. We played and won the championship of Santa Barbara County and we went to Ventura and beat them. Then we played San Luis Obispo County and we had the championship of three counties. We went on to play in Los Angeles, Chatsworth was the team. Monrovia was last. Those schools were huge and here we had 90 kids in the whole school. And 6 of them on the team. I remember they put us up in the Chemistry Lab., so we could shower off, only with towels. The other team took a huge part of the equipment with them. We did not have showers at the school here but later on I remember putting showers in ourselves. The high school was situated at the top of Sagunto Hill to the west, they said it was declared unsafe but it was a rock! The had to dynamite it down, it was terrible. The old Grammar School was built at the same time. It was two story and a couple of boys were said to have burned it down. There was a little school house right here at the corner (Sagunto and Fariday Sts.) as I remember. Two rooms in it. I am sure that Jeannette Lyons was one of our teachers.

PL: What did Santa Ynez Look like when you were 10 or 12 years old?

Mr. A. There was Minetti's Hotel, right at the corner here was Cunnan's Drug store, then Martindale's Drug Store, I remember Martindale's burned down. We fought the fire

all night. My Dad had to be up pumping water for the fire fighters. North across the street was Minetti's, a vacant lot, then Murphy Brothers Store, and on this side after Cunnan's was the telephone office, about opposite the Carriage House. Then the old brick building, Pertica House. Later it became the post office. The College Hotel was on the corner of Sagunto and Edison Streets. I was not here when it burned down, in 1935. It was said that it burned like a volcano. The windmill next to the hotel melted and the legs all came down. It was a huge fire. Even walking into the College Hotel was exciting, the carpets were thick. We knew the Hourahans, who ran the hotel, very well. The family lived in the corner house on the hill side.

End of Side 1, Tape 1

PL: Tell me what you can about the old car that we call the The Anderson Special?

Mr. A. That was a car. My Dad did a lot of things that I would not have had the nerve to do. Knowing as little as he did about motors, he had to learn by doing. Every one of these cars he built was an experiment for him. When we used to go riding, we would always fix a tire or tow three times each trip. If we went to Los Olivos we had a flat. Tootsie De La Cuesta lived around the corner from us and she would go with us in the car. May Miller

had a Cypress hedge all around the house and Old Man Low's house. John Miller built a big barn on Faraday Street. Some times my Dad would pick up fellows (hobos) off the road and give them work. One was Joe and he was a good carpenter and Dad always had work for him. Most of them were hobos. I would listen to Joe. He told terrific stories of building a fire under the bridge some where and a stream running by. He carried so much paper to wrap up and keep warm on the road. Joe built cupboards. Then we knew another hobo who was a shoe maker, a good shoe maker, and my Dad would get leather and have shoes made and sell them.

PL: When the Anderson Special made all that noise and people would not let your Dad drive it, was this a disappointment to him?

Mr. A: A lot of machines were coming in then and they were being manufactured by companies with that,he put the old car in the barn. I can remember we played on it and didn't think much about it until some fellows were looking in the barn and said that the car was a "Steamer" but I had to tell them it had a gas motor. The radiator fooled people because it was circular.

PL: What about the Air Motor engine that sits in the court yard of the Museum?

Mr. A: That was a little engine that was started up first thing in the morning for power for all the equipment in the shop. It pumped water. The shaft ran the full length

of the shop. There was a tin shed that held all the equipment, and parts of machines. In that tin shed was this Air Motor engine. Dry cell batteries that started the engine. I would often wonder what kept that little thing going. There were two ten thousand gallon tanks that supplied the town with water.

PL: How was all this water gotten to the homes?

Mr. A: We had a regular pipe line, it had a four inch line full length of Sagunto Street and down the back street. We lived on Numancia, on the corner. There was a four inch line down there and hydrants that came up and a hose to fasten on and you could use any fire fighting equipment. That little motor started up every day. We would fill it with gasoline and it would run and it was terrific as I think of it. I used to start it and I was a pretty small kid. We had a Fairbanks motor in the shop which would substitute in case the Air Motor quit.

PL: Tell me about some of the jobs that your Dad would do?

Mr. A: He repaired all the plow shares, sharpened them , and it was an art. You had to weld a piece on the plow share as it would get worn down, the point of it. You had to hammer it out as it was hot. I never learned to do that I never cared much about that part although I did work on such things and helped in the shop. I remember my Dad taking the trip hammer and making it so smooth and nice. He was busy all the time. He had several wagons to repair, even wood parts. And setting tires on

wagons, the iron tires. I worked many, many days on setting those tires. I would build the fire for the job, and remember one time some one threw some kerosene or gasoline on the fire and when I lighted it, up it blew and I fell back and it burned my eye brows and hair.

PL: How did his customers pay your Dad?

Me. A: My God! Think of the money he carried on people! You know, I kept books when I was in high school and there were people that never paid their bills. We would have a bad year and the men would come in and say that they could not pay right now, would Dad take a pig? or some thing like that for payment. That was fine but when they never paid with any thing, that was bad. When I think of some of the money he would have had if he had required them to pay, and with interest. But it did not work that way. You had to depend on them to make a go of it and they always had a family to support. I remember Campbell, he had a number of children. They lived right out here on the Doheny Ranch, a different family from the Campbell's of Los Olivos, when they left here, in fact one of the older girls was a teacher in the elementary school, Mary Campbell. There was Frank and John, and when Doheny bought the land they moved to Madera, I know they never paid my Dad. But dad made enough to carry us along.

PL: Back to you, what did you do after high school?

Mr. A: I was 17 when I went off to college. I went to Cal Tech, which was a mistake. In Pasadena. Our counselors did not tell us what the requirements were to be a doctor or engineer, and I wanted to be an engineer. I had some engineering in me, but I wanted more to play ball. I went to Pasadena when I graduated, but them I wrote to Mother and told her I could not keep up and she was very disappointed. She had visions of me coming out a full fledged engineer, but I knew it was not for me. I told her I would work and play ball. I remember Henry Minetti, my chum, he and some others asked me to come down to Santa Barbara College, he said you can room with us and have good times. They talked me into it . The college was then up on the Rivera, State Normal. I took the Junior College level work, math, and science. There, I was able to play ball and that was important. Baseball, football, track, basketball. They don't think of doing that now.

PL: You decided to change your major to Physical Education?

Mr. A: I finally decided after getting acquainted with a number fellows there, that I could learn shop work and teach it, I didn't think of Physical Education. After getting out of college, I had a chance to play baseball. Instead of giving you a million dollars that you hear about today, they offered you a chance to go to camp and you paid your own way! If you didn't make it you paid your way home. Mother and Father helped me a lot

in college, I have to hand it to them. Mother was strong on education. Dad wanted me to take over the business but I can tell you there were a lot of people who sat in the first pew of a church, honorable people but they did not pay him the money they owed and I did not like that.

PL: So you did get your teaching credential?

Mr. A: In Physical Education and they knew I had taken part in all these sports. I did take a minor. I still see some of these boys that I had in class and they always remember me. My neighbor across the street remembers me even though he was in Mr. Glover's class. I was really a green teacher, I must admit, but the way I handled the kids, they liked me so I got along. I was tough on them as my parents were on me.

PL: What did a youngster do in the summer time here in Santa Ynez?

Mr. A: My God, I'll tell you... this town had three saloons... had one, two, not as big as the livery stable because you could rent your horse and buggy right there and they kept horses there, a number of them. They had a lot of wagons and carriages that you have in the Carriage House ((Museum)) now. I remember my Dad had a beautiful three seater surrey and we would go on May Day and the 4th of July on picnics, the whole town. Over here on the Mahoney Ranch there was a big flat across the river, we had ball games, races, straight horse races, saddle

races. I did not win all the races but I got to the fastest guy in college. I won the 100 and 200 meter races. Santa Ynez was a fun place to grow up. You take the Edsells and Buells....I remember when Solvang was just a cross road, only the Mission (Santa Ines) was there. There was a terrific group of people. I remember my Dad asked people to chip in a few dollars for a picnic, and we got some meat and all that went with it. When I think of Buell Flat, we always referred to it as Buell's Flat, there was hunting rabbits and quail right across all that area and now it is all developed. I used to run all over these hills here and there was no boundary, fish and hunt anywhere. Fishing all year round. The dam (Cachuma) stopped it. I caught 100 fish, there was a limit, so we did not walk the road with them, we came up Santa Cota Creek to fish to the river. You could catch three fish at a time. I remember Emmett Edwards, Sheffield, Henry Minetti, Johnnie Diho and I would all walk together and hike to the river to fish and come home with a load.

End of Side 2, Tape 1

I went hunting with my son by Ducore, near Bakersfield. This fellow told my son where to go to get near the water amd when we got there not a dove in sight. Then we went to the other side where there was some shooting

and my son left me there. And by golly, I got the first five birds that came in.

PL: What do you remember about you Dad?

Mr. A: His drinking, he always had his bottle of whisky. You know, I don't say this, he wasn't what you would call an alcoholic but he did drink an awful lot. He did it doing hard work and sweated it out. He was always alert and did his work well. He always treated me very well I never remember him getting mean, he would sleep about that time. He was successful as a mechanic and provided the best water service here in Santa Ynez that they had. That was one of his prime objectives, to keep the town with good water. His only sport was hunting, shot gun hunting. And he would go out with the Troups. His friends, the Troups lived near Solvang, had the old mill place (Grist Mill). Jim and Charlie Troup, there was a big family. I think it is where the Rasmussens bought later. They raised barley and wheat.

PL; What do you remember about your Mother?

Mr. A; Mother was the power house that told us, Look, this is the way things are done! And my Dad supported her, in her views. When property came up for sale she would buy it or Dad would buy it. I remember we bought a ranch out here in town, 50 acres on Calzada, right near the old Ontiveros place. We farmed that land. Dad got the chance to buy it for $500.00. When I think about it now we should have had the whole valley. We owned from

Sagunto St. to Numancia St. to Edison St. Dad sold it off gradually. You see Dad had a sick spell for a long time, he had men working for him in the shop and the water business but he still hung on to the thing. My brother Jack, sold a lot of property. I started teaching and had taught about 3 years before Dad died. He had heart condition and would lie in bed for long periods. Mother was very game and kept things going, and I would pitch in too and Jack. Jack was in charge of the fire department. Dad died in the 1940's. Mother stayed in the big two story house alone. It had two fire places and I have a picture of the place after it burned to the ground with just the two chimneys still standing. Some wires crossed and started the fire. Jack saved the safe that you have in the Museum Courtyard. He had the men pour water on the safe. They tried to buy the bell off of me, I don't know how Jack got the engine bell. Some one took it from the engine after the wreck of #106 near Los Alamos and then for a long time it was up at Jonata Park, near Buellton. Jack and Laurence Libeu went after the men who had taken the bell, turned the red light on them and then Jack kept it at the fire station at Jonata Park. They used the bell to alert the firemen. There was a fire station there for the whole valley, at Jonata Park. Later I gave the bell to the Historical Museum, after Jack passed away. Tom Petersen wanted to buy it.

PL; Can you tell me about the old jail in the courtyard of the Museum?

Mr. A: I have terrific memories of the old jail. I think the people put in there were disorderly or drunk in town and this was one place they could keep them. I was a strong son-of-a-gun and I remember as a youngster, having this fellow yelling, "I need water!" There was a hose connected at the upper tank, the jail was located at Faraday but lower than Numancia St. I took this hose and stuck it through the bars and turned the water on a little bit.

PL: Was it Alonzo Crabb who was arresting people?

Mr. A: Alonzo Crabb was a cowboy, he made a living at it. He was a big guy and they elected him Constable, Lonnie never hurt anyone.

End of Side 1 Tape 2

The trouble was they were put in jail and then forgotten. I heard these guys yelling and knew they were in trouble. Sometimes my Dad would have to call someone to get them out, poor devils!

PL: Thank you for visiting with me today, Mr. Anderson.